The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Habit is the deepest law of human nature.—Carlyle.

WHOLE NO. 1011. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 24.

EMPLOYERS FAVOR EQUITY COURTS THAT IGNORE HUMAN RIGHTS

A group of low-wage contractors in the New York cloak industry secured an injunction against "any one" interfering with their business.

Organized cloak makers, affiliated to International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and their employers are endeavoring to take this industry out of its present low state. Such union is recognized and both parties shun anti-union contractors.

Under these conditions the contractors asked the Kings County Supreme Court for an injunction. Their business is "interfered with," they said.

This is true. The unionists and their employers are exercising their lawful right to patronize whom they elect.

It may be asked: "How can defendants be excluded from such guarantees as free press and free speech?"

The answer is that the injunction was issued by a court of equity.

The contractors could secure no relief in a court of law. No law is violated. If the contrary were true, police authorities are available. But this would mean that the defendants' rights would be protected.

In an equity court human rights are not considered.

So the contractors ask the court to sit as an equity court. It is the same judge and the same courtroom, but when the judge sits as a court of equity the Constitution, law and precedents are discarded. The conscience of the equity judge is his only guide.

The contractors assured the equity court that their "property" was being damaged. They told of a "conspiracy" to injure their business. The unionists and fair employers would not patronize them and thus strengthen the sweatshop system they were attempting to destroy.

Up to a comparatively short time ago equity courts defined property as something tangible and transferable.

Patronage and prospective profits were not considered "property" until anti-union attorneys and hostile courts discovered that if these were classed as "property" labor could be thrown into equity courts, where workers' rights are ignored.

Government by injunction was thus assured whenever workers induced a prospective patron to avoid an unfair employer or agreed between themselves to take such action.

A court of equity does not deal with Constitutional guarantees involving human liberty. That is for a court of law.

Equity deals with property and as definitions of property are enlarged, the power of injunction judges is extended.

Under this system the most elemental rights of workers are annulled when such rights conflict with the equity court's new definition of property.

These courts all agree that workers have the right to unite and to refuse to work when conditions are objectionable.

But if workers make effective their union or their strike, the injunction judge talks of "conspiracy" to injure business.

Any act by workers, no matter how lawful, can be enjoined on the claim that an employer's profits are lessened.

A thing lawful in itself becomes a conspiracy when done by a group of workers, and which lessens the employers' income.

Equity courts thus line up with employers who would enforce debasing conditions on workers. The entire judicial system is brought into contempt by the partisan stand of injunction judges who use the power of government to maintain sweatshop standards.

Despotic Industrial Power Looms; Trade Unionism Single Challenge

Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 23.—"Industry is the last stronghold of despotic power and the only effective challenge to this power anywhere has come from organized labor," said Donald R. Richberg, attorney for organized railroad workers, at the Institute of Public Affairs.

"American industry is being concentrated in the hands of industrial autocrats," said Mr. Richberg. "By encouraging such concentration, the Government is defeating its own purpose and is opening the way for the destruction of democratic institutions."

"As a result of these industrial concentrations, the doors of opportunity are being closed to the self-protecting worker. There is no place for him in this industrial system. The applicant for a job is not permitted to negotiate a contract. He has no individual bargaining power. He is a serf because his employer has no property interest in him—only the property interest in keeping him 'free' to be exploited."

The balance of economic power, said Mr. Richberg, is being destroyed by operators of modern industry in America.

"There are millions of unemployed workers ready to break down the wage standards," he continued. "With the constant displacement of workers by machinery, this unhappy reserve supply of labor is constantly increasing. If it were not for some 4,000,000 trade unionists there would be no weight of any consequence on the employe side of the scales.

"It is true that we see on every hand laudable efforts to render public service by great money makers. Unfortunately, these noble experiments support reams of sophistical argument in favor of still further concentration of industrial power, so that more billions may be pressed out of the natural and human resources of this wealthy Nation."

Mr. Richberg predicted that if present policies continue this economic power will be matched by the development and strengthening of labor unions or "all effective, above-board labor organizations will be crushed and an underground revolutionary labor movement will begin to rise to power."

SOCIETY RESTS ON JUSTICE BASIS; CHARITY IS UNSTABLE FOUNDATION

By REV. FR. FRANCIS J. HAAS, Ph. D.
Professor of Sociology, St. Francis Seminary and Author of "Men and Society"

It is particularly important for statesmen and industrial leaders to remember that society is a juridical institution, namely, that it rests on the bed rock of justice, and not on charity. While charity is an extremely necessary social force, it is not the basis of society. Unwise policies, based on a mistaken concept of human relations, are sometime adopted by legislatures and industrial corporations.

To illustrate, a government that fails to search out and remove the economic causes of poverty, contents itself with maintaining elaborate systems of relief, is precisely on a false premise.

If some of its citizens are actually in need, investigations should be made as to whether or not their just rights are being invaded by their stronger fellow citizens. It is the primary duty of the State to stamp out such injustices when they are found to exist. For example, the right to a decent family income in return for useful labor is a right conferred by justice on farm and city workers. If this right is allowed to be violated, no system of public charity in the form of cash aid to farmers or poor relief to city dwellers, can take its place. It is only after all reasonable efforts to protect legitimate rights have been made that elaborate systems of poor relief should be undertaken.

Many industrial corporations have developed activities known as welfare systems. The workers usually resent these activities, as savoring too much of charity. This is only a natural reaction to the false conception that society is founded on charity.

HIGH WAGES NEEDED TO CONSUME SURPLUS

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 23.—"This country will continue on the ragged edge of industrial depression until wages are increased," said Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L., at a luncheon given delegates to the State Federation of Labor convention. Public officials and business men were present.

The trade unionist quoted government figures to show that we are producing $22,000,000,000 worth of goods that we have not the wages to purchase.

"About 8 per cent of this is exported," said Mr. McGrady. "But still we need $18,000,000,000 more in wages to purchase what we are manufacturing. And until the wages are increased to somewhere near the value of our manufactured products we are going to have business depressions.

"There is a tremendous untouched home market in our country. It is untouched because the workers have no purchasing power in the home market. More than 7,000,000 people in the United States have no automobile; about 20,000,000 have no adequate radio set. In our cities alone there were in 1928 more than 4,000,000 families who had no bathtubs in their homes and more than 3,000,000 families who did not have a kitchen sink with running water and no toilet, no plumbing of any kind. Over 13,000,000 families in our cities have no telephones and 4,000,000 live in homes not wired for electricity.

"Give our people adequate wages and we will purchase all these modern necessities. Developing this market will mean higher standards for thousands who have not yet shared in American prosperity. If we can not be prosperous industrially without mass production, then the whole thing will fall to the ground unless we are given wages for mass production."

STAND BY YOUR UNION

Trade unionism is doubly necessary when crafty employers talk of no wage reductions while they silently attempt to undermine work standards.

The unions are also necessary because of their power to mold public opinion in favor of injunction relief, old-age pensions and other social legislation.

Unions are not attacked in times of prosperity. Workers must be especially vigilant in times of depression.

Anti-union employers, to a large extent, have abandoned open opposition. Stealth and a destruction of the workers' morale are being used.

The union hall is the forum where present conditions can be discussed and new plans agreed to on how to hold the lines.

"Stand by your union" should be the slogan of every worker who appreciates the value of organization. To become discouraged is to play into the hands of opponents of every form and guise.

IDLE STATISTICS MAY CONFUSE

Citizens may be confused when they read preliminary Census Bureau figures that certain areas have but 2 and 3 per cent of their population unemployed.

These figures are based on the number of persons who have no jobs and are seeking employment. They do not include workers who have been laid off. When a plant closes down and notifies employes that they are temporarily released, these are not included in the present census list of unemployed.

Last June, the Census Bureau used this system in several non-industrial States, and Secretary of Commerce Lamont declared that if the theory were applied to the whole country it "would indicate much less unemployment than was generally estimated." [illegible] the figures do not include industrial areas, where unemployment is more general than in agricultural sections.

Since then Dr. Charles E. Persons, a statistician of standing, and a former teacher at Princeton and Northwestern Universities, is reported as having resigned from the Bureau of the Census as a protest against policies that appear to minimize the number of unemployed.

HIGH WAGE FICTION EXPOSED BY SURVEY

New York, Aug. 23.—The high wage fiction that has been overworked in this country is exposed by the business survey department of Worrance, Sullivan & Co.

The District of Columbia, the seat of government, stands first among the 12 leading States with an average annual wage of $1,645. Wyoming and Nevada, both non-industrial States, are second and third, with $1,627 and $1,618. Michigan, an industrial State, is fourth with $1,555 and New York is fifth with $1,495.

These figures are ignored by persons who point to a few hundred thousand workers who receive wages of $10 a day and over, and who constitute a small percentage of the millions of wage workers, hundreds of thousands who receive $10 a week and less.

GRAND JURY SYSTEM HANDLED BY ONE MAN

New York, Aug. 23.—The refusal of a county grand jury to present charges of corruption against public officials recalls the ease with which prosecuting attorneys evade or secure grand jury indictments. This system has been referred to as "a relic of the dark ages."

Raymond Moley, professor of public law at Columbia University, says in his book "Politics and Criminal Prosecution":

"It is well known that except in unusual instances the grand jury is a rubber stamp for the prosecuting attorney. The common parlance of a prosecutor's office is not 'presenting a case to the grand jury' but 'getting an indictment' or 'indicting some one.' Anyone who has experienced service on a grand jury knows how hopelessly this domination comes about. The order of cases considered is usually subject to the prosecutor's determination. Almost always he is the only lawyer in the room, and the laymen present are stricken with the reverential silence usually accorded supposed learning and experience. The prosecutor usually leads the examination of the witnesses and asks 90 per cent of the questions. He draws the indictments and submits it to the uncritical and unquestioning approval of the foreman."

BIG WAR PREDICTED WITHIN TEN YEARS

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 23.—Conditions in Europe are similar to 1909 and the nations are preparing for a war between 1935 and 1940, said Prof. C. Delisle Burns of the University of Glasgow at the Institute of Politics.

The speaker drew an analogy between the situation today in Europe and that in 1909, when the nations were divided into two hostile camps as to which ones were to furnish finances and armaments to those requiring such assistance.

Similar alliances are now being made, Prof. Burns said. Just as in the last war, France financed Serbia in armaments and Germany financed Bulgaria, so Italy is today financing Rumania and is interested in an understanding with Hungary and with Germany. The situation in 1930 is, therefore, in the opinion of the speaker, like that of 1909, with the nations only from five to ten years away from war.

"Under this crust of preparation for war the States are growing stronger, however, in cooperation," he said. "The tendency toward peace is becoming stronger, while we have only a five-year breathing space.

"If you make policies now that get you into trouble in 1935, no League of Nations will get you out of it then. We are drifting toward a situation from which not such machinery will be able to rescue us.

"Logically speaking, we must either abolish Western civilization or war, because they can not be harmonized."

BRITISH UNIONISTS MEET IN NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham, England, Aug. 23.—The British Trades Union Congress will hold its sixty-second annual meeting in this city beginning September 1.

Officers of the Congress will report an increased membership because of a trade union recruiting campaign that has been carried on during the year.

The Congress makes an award to any member who secures a minimum of 10 new members. Applicants for this award exceed 5,000, while a large number of trade unionists have not qualified, but have secured from one to nine new members.

The recruiting scheme not only increases the membership, but develops a morale among members.

The Congress will be in session one week. The American Federation of Labor is represented by two fraternal delegates—John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, and Thomas Maloy, of the International Alliance of Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators.

UNIFORM LAW PROPOSED TO CONTROL CHILD LABOR

Chicago, Aug. 23.—A uniform law prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years of age in any gainful employment was approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

The proposed law would regulate employment of minors between 14 and 18 years and prescribe certain occupations in which persons of 21 years and under may not be engaged.

Thirty-five States were represented and the proposed law approved with one dissenting State and one State not voting.

The drift of the act has been considered for four years. The States are urged to adopt the plan, which has been submitted to the American Bar Association for approval.

WAGE-EARNING MOTHERS FORCED INTO INDUSTRY

Washington, Aug. 23.—The United States Women's Bureau again proves that wage-earning mothers are forced into industry.

The bureau has repeatedly refuted the claim that these women work for wages to secure pin-money.

The latest denial of this claim is the result of a study of 550 Cleveland mothers who are engaged in wage-earning occupations.

Most of the 550 women were doing full-time work away from home.

FRUIT YIELD ABOVE THAT OF LAST YEAR

Washington, Aug. 23.—This year's yield of all fruits, on the basis of August 1 reports, will be 18 per cent above the 1929 crop, according to the Department of Agriculture.

INJUNCTION PROTEST BY PHILLY UNIONISTS

Philadelphia, Aug. 23.—Organized labor in this city will stage an anti-injunction demonstration Saturday at the National League Base Ball Park on Sunday, September 7.

The demonstration is part of an educational campaign that is being conducted by the unionists against government by equity courts, which is rampant in this city and vicinity.

Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., will be the principal speaker. Other speakers will be Hon. Royal S. Copeland, United States Senator from New York; Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer United Mine Workers of America, and John A. Philips, president Pennsylvania Federation of Labor.

LABOR DROPS IN PENN STATE

Philadelphia, Aug. 23.—Wages and factory employment in this State during July declined more extensively than is usual for that month and reached the lowest level since the middle of 1924, according to the local Federal Reserve Bank.

JUDGES WHO PROBE MOONEY CASE DON'T SEEM INTERESTED IN BOMB

San Francisco, Aug. 23.—State Supreme Court justices held hearings on the Billings pardon plea in Folsom penitentiary, where Billings is confined, but the jurists did not seem to be interested in what happened at the scene of the bombing.

Supreme Court Justice Preston did most of the questioning. He is a former prosecuting attorney and he has made every effort to prove Billings a "red," and an associate of anarchists. Under cross-examination Billings said if he had the power to change this government he would place a Democrat President and a Democratic Congress in power. The "red" claim collapsed.

Billings refused to consider a parole. He insisted on a pardon. "Parole," he said, "is for those who are guilty and have repented."

The failure of the justices to ask about the bombing would indicate that the prosecution has dropped the theory of murder guilt and that Mooney and Billings, while not murderers, are undesirable citizens, and should not be unconditionally released.

This theory is strengthened by Attorney Brennan's statement to the justices. He was an assistant prosecutor in the two trials and said that the defendants were tried on three general reputations "and outside circumstances."

The Supreme Court, in its recent refusal to favor a Billings pardon, took the astonishing position that even if they did not commit the murders, they knew who did, and that they have not offered to aid the police in apprehending the real murderers. In the trials the State made no attempt to create this impression. Witnesses who are now known to be perjurers, swore that Mooney and Billings carried a suit case that was supposed to carry the bomb.

CHEAP-WAGE SOUTH OPPOSES UNIONISM

Washington, Aug. 23.—Wages are lower in the South than in the rest of the country, according to recent statistics published in a book issued by the University of North Carolina, and reviewed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The widest difference is shown in agriculture, where wages for farm laborers in July, last year, were $1.55, or only 48 per cent of those in other parts of the country.

Wages in southern railroad repair shops in 1927 averaged 63.5 per cent of those in other parts of the country; in foundries and machine shops, 80.4 per cent; cotton textile industry, 86.3 per cent; knit goods, 59.6 per cent; lumber, 62.5 per cent.

The difference is less among organized than among unorganized workers.

TEN MILLION TAX WASTE

New York, Aug. 23.—The State Economic Council asserts that $10,000,000 State and local taxes in New York are annually wasted.

"Cost of government"—Federal, State and local—has grown from $138 in 1913 to $460 per family in 1929, it is claimed.

GREEN WILL SPEAK ON LABOR SUNDAY

Washington, Aug. 23.—An address by President Green will feature a Labor Sunday service in the grounds of Washington (Episcopal) Cathedral in this city.

The service will be from 4 to 5 P. M., Sunday, August 31, and will be broadcast on a country-wide hook-up.

President Green speaks in Syracuse, Labor Day afternoon, and Secretary Frank Morrison will speak in Baltimore Labor Day evening. Both speeches will be broadcasted.

UNEMPLOYMENT PAY PROPOSED IN EAST

Boston, Aug. 23.—Unemployment insurance, creation of an employment insurance commission and an employers' mutual insurance company, are proposed by Representative Thomas Smith, Jr., of Fall River.

The commission would be composed of three State officials, and five private citizens, of whom at least two shall be members in good standing of a recognized trade union.

Claims for compensation, based on the length of unemployment and the causes thereof, would be filed with the proposed company by the employe. Overhead charges will be paid by the State.

Every employer member of the company shall pay 3 per cent of his pay roll.

INDIANA OFFICIALS STOP ROAD GOUGING

Indianapolis, Aug. 23.—The Board of Public Works announces it will provide in every contract for public work in this city that labor shall be paid a fair wage.

Contractors have been estimating a labor charge of 50 cents an hour and when they secure the contract beat down the wage to 25 and even 20 cents an hour.

The grasping contractors are squirming under the publicity given their unfair practice.

INJUNCTION VIOLATED; JUDGE TAKES NO ACTION

Nazareth, Pa., Aug. 23.—Judge Stewart is conveniently overlooking repeated violations of his injunction by Representative Budenz of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

Budenz notified the judge he intended to violate the order. He picketts the Kramaer hosiery plant and calls on these workers to tear up their "yellow dog" agreement.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYERS OPPOSE TRADE UNIONS

New Orleans, Aug. 23.—The A. F. of L. educational campaign means nothing to the backward-looking Louisiana Manufacturers' Association which has called on manufacturers in this State to resist efforts to organize their employes. This blacklist system is advised: "Foremen and superintendents should be charged with the responsibilities of their positions in keeping agitators out of your plants. Our organization is not to exercise great care in replacing employes to prevent trouble for yourself."

Organized labor in this city has appointed a committee to answer the manufacturers.

Employers are aided in their campaign by a Communist organization known as the Marine Workers' Industrial Union, whose activities has resulted in disorders along the waterfront.

IMMIGRATION BAN APPLIED IN CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 23.—The Dominion of Canada has prohibited immigration from continental Europe as the first move to solve Canada's unemployment problem. The only exception to the order will be admission of experienced farmers of suitable type, said W. A. Gordon, minister of colonization and immigration.

"The purpose of the order," he said, "is to prevent persons from coming to this country who will not be able to find work upon arrival and to protect the people of Canada from the burden of such unemployment. We regard the present situation as temporary but we propose to apply an effective remedy until unemployment conditions improve."

ADVICE TO MILLIONAIRES

The gentleman was introduced on the sound news-reel as one who would speak a few golden words on the subject of prosperity. His name is unimportant. He is prominent, popular and many times a millionaire. This, in substance, is what he had to say:

"We are having what we call 'hard times.' We should not be discouraged but should recall, rather, that periods of depression have occurred before this and after they passed they never seemed as serious as we thought them."

He talked more than that, of course, but that was what he really said.

Here was a man who has a good home and an ample supply of good food and good clothing for himself and family blandly chattering about "periods of depression" and their transitory nature. To him a period of depression is nothing more than a name given to the time during which his income might be reduced from an amount that he could not possibly spend to an amount that forces him to make the yacht do for another year. Some one should take him aside and whisper in his ear that there are millions of people in the country for whom a period of depression has an entirely different meaning. It is a time when a man sees his family suffer from cold and hunger. It is a time during which a man lies awake wondering where he will get the money to pay the rent.

Of course, it was kind and generous and thoughtful of our millionaire friend to set aside his caviar long enough to drop a few words of encouragement to the poor. But somehow optimism passes more gracefully from one poor man to another.—Columbia Magazine.

TRADE UNION ARTISTS FACE "CANNED" MUSIC

Washington, Aug. 23.—Leading picture theaters in this city would substitute "canned" music for musicians, Sidney Fox Film, Loew Corporation and its subsidiaries reported an increase in earnings of $2,038,340, or 40 per cent, in the last six months.

The Loew Corporation reports earnings for the past year equal to $10 a share.

HIGH WAGE CALLED DEPRESSION CURE

Washington, Aug. 23.—High wages will "snap us out" of the business depression, Eldridge R. Johnson, New Jersey capitalist, told President Hoover on a visit to the White House.

Johnson, former president Victor Graphophone Company, said it will be "far easier to resume on a high-wage basis than on a low-wage basis."

"On a high-wage base," he said, "everything begins where it left off right away, whereas on a low-wage basis it will take years to build up again to the old standard."

PENCIL INDUSTRY SHOWS LOW WAGES

Washington, Aug. 23.—Pencils made last year in this country had a value of more than $23,000,000, according to the Bureau of Census.

An average of 5,666 workers were employed throughout the year and wages totaled $6,280,684, or approximately $1,100 per year per employe.

Manufacturers' profits can not be calculated from the census data, because no data are collected for expense items, such as interest on investments, rent, depreciation, insurance and advertising.

TYPOS TO AID IDLE

Chicago, Aug. 23.—The local Typographical Union voted to assess members $1 per cent on earnings for 13 weeks to pay out-of-work benefits.

BROKERS SET PRICES IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 23.—New York commission brokers set textile prices and often force mill owners to sell below cost and at the expense of labor, said Vice President Kelley of the United Textile Workers at the annual convention of North Carolina Federation of Labor.

Paul J. Smith detailed progress by the A. F. of L. organizing committee. He replied to Commissioner of Labor Grist of this State who recently attacked the A. F. of L. Grist is holding a job that was created through the efforts of organized labor. President Smith of the Tennessee Federation of Labor told the delegates that the short work week is the only solution of the unemployment.

Edward F. McGrady, head of L. legislative representative, said children should be taken out of the mills and that profits of the textile industry were wrung from these children and women.

COLD STORAGE STOCKS SHOW PLENTY OF FOOD

Washington, Aug. 23.—Reports by the Department of Agriculture on stocks of frozen meats and other food in cold storage on August 1 show that the drouth has not endangered the nation's food supply.

Case eggs in storage totaled 11,202,000 cases, compared with 8,962,000 one year ago. Frozen eggs increased to 116,358,000 pounds from 91,488,000 last year.

There were 810,974,000 pounds of various kinds of meat in storage; creamery butter, 145,297,000 pounds, and more than 100,000,000 pounds of cheese. Frozen poultry totaled 46,890,000 pounds.

PEOPLE DEFRAUDED BY VARIOUS METHODS

New York, Aug. 23.—The American people are annually defrauded to the extent of $5,000,000,000, said F. Batten, vice president of a local bank, in an address to business men.

Forgery was classed as "the fastest growing crime." Bankruptcy on a large scale is also increasing.

The public, said Mr. Batten, lose $700,000,000 each year through purchase of falsely advertised goods. A Buffalo institution was cited where a ring, advertised to be of platinum, was sold at retail for $46.60, it later developed that the ring contained exactly 13 cents worth of platinum.

234,854 IDLE IN NEW YORK

Washington, Aug. 23.—There are 234,854 unemployed persons in New York City, according to preliminary figures issued by the Bureau of the Census. This is 3.4 per cent of the total population of 6,856,195. If the employed percentage were based on the number of employable persons the percentage would reach an alarming figure.